(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) While deciding a consumer dispute case (original Petition No. 224 of 2001), the National Consumers Dispute Redressal Commission (NCDRC) directed that Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) should ensure that weighing scales are made available to all deliverymen to deliver domestic LPG cylinders to customers only after weighing them in their presence.

(b) and (c) Government have not given any specific instructions to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the matter. However, OMCs have reported that their LPG distributors are under instructions to ensure 100% weighment of cylinders at their godown before delivery at the customers premises. In a bid to enhance customer satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by OMCs to provide a spring balance to enable the customer to verify the correctness of the weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

Regulatory Authority for Petroleum sector

†2221. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is necessity of the constitution of an independent regulatory authority for the petroleum and natural gas sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have also taken any decision in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Government are proposing to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

set up a Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under a Statute to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas, to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The draft PNGRB Bill is under the consideration of the Government.

Stability in Petrol and Diesel Prices

†2222. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps so far to minimize the impact of continued rising international crude prices on domestic oil prices;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken till date to ensure stability of petrol and diesel prices in the country;

(c) whether Government have so far taken any action to modify present duty structure on oil; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are also contemplating any long-term supply contract with oil producing countries; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Since the end of 2003, there has been an unprecedented, sharp and spiraling increase in international oil prices combined with considerable week-to-week and even day-today volatility. The Indian Basket of crude oil touched and all-time high of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.